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# A MAJOR PRAYER OBSTACLE

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## STUDY NOTES FOR CARE GROUPS – PRAYER 5

*The following are resource questions that you can use with our Care Group for discussion. They are based on the sermon preached on Sunday, October 4 2009, by Pastor Arnold at the Grace Baptist Church, Singapore. To hear the actual sermon, you can go to <http://www.gracebap.org.sg/worship/series.html> and listen to the sermon.*

*OCTOBER 4, 2009*

### *Introduction and Background*

The central focus for our study is the challenge of obstacles that hinders our prayers from getting through to God. Such obstacles are spiritual in nature and because of them; God sometimes delays or denies our request. What is this “obstacle” we are talking about? The direct answer is: SIN.

#### *I. Unconfessed sin hinders prayer*

False thinking that disarms believers include:

- A tendency to rationalize and be defensive
- Counting on God’s grace and mercy to look away from our sins
- Limited to only those sins that actually took place

From the Old Testament

- Psalm 66:16-20
- Psalm 145:8
- Isaiah 1:11

From the New Testament

- Romans 6:1-2
- 1 Peter 3:7

#### *II. Unconfessed sin has many faces & forms*

Open sins (direct disobedience and disregard for God’s law)

- Galatians 5:19-20

Hidden sins (less obvious and are not seen on the surface, such as attitudes and pride)

- Pride (Mark 7:21-23)
- Selfishness (James 4:13)

#### *III. Unconfessed sin can be removed*

Old Testament

- For the nation, Daniel 9:4-5, 20-23. When we confess, God acts immediately.
- For the individual, Psalm 32.

New Testament

- 1 John 1:9

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DISCUSSION:

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Do we see sin from the world's standard or God's standard?

***Application:***

- Acknowledge these roadblocks / obstacles in your life
  
- Share a tangible action plan towards this goal with the group
  
- Ensure that there is nothing between you and God today.

***Prayer:***

*Lord God, help me to hold fast to You. Help me to be truthful in my life inside and outside so that there is no unconfessed sin in my life today. Amen.*